

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-11 FMC-04 CG-00

COA-02 DLOS-06 STR-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 NIC-01 ACDA-19

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R 190225Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0283

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USUN NEW YORK 0187

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 1235

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SN, UR

SUBJ: VISIT OF SOVIET DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER

REF: SINGAPORE 1184

1. DURING DISCUSSION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER RAJARATNAM MARCH 16, I ASKED HIM WHAT HAD TRANSPIRED DURING VISIT OF SOVIET DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER FIRYUBIN TO SINGAPORE. HE SAID IT WAS BASICALLY A COURTESY VISIT, BUT THEY DID DISCUSS LOS, TRADE

AND "THE USUAL CULTURAL THINGS."

RAJARATNAM SAID GOS AND USSR AGREE ON FREE PASSAGE OF STRAITS BUT DIFFER ON THE ARCHIPELAGO ISSUE. GOS POSITION IS THAT PRINCIPLE OF FREE PASSAGE IS EQUALLY VALID IN BOTH CASES. YIELDING TO CLAIMS OF NATIONAL CONTROL OF ARCHIPELAGOS, HE SAID, WOULD PUT VAST AREAS OF THE WORLD UNDER NATIONAL CONTROL WHICH COULD CREATE SERIOUS PROBLEMS

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FOR WORLD SHIPPING. FIRYUBIN EXPRESSED SOVIET SUPPORT FOR

ARCHIPELAGO PRINCIPLE.

2. ON TRADE, RAJARATNAM SAID MAIN SOVIET CONCERN IS SOVIET EXPORT PROCEEDS IN BLOCKED ACCOUNT WHICH, UNDER BILATERAL TRADE AGREEMENT, HAVE TO BE SPENT FOR GOODS MANUFACTURED IN SINGAPORE. SOVIETS HAVE FAILED TO PURCHASE SUFFICIENT VOLUME OF SINGAPORE GOODS TO CLEAR THEIR ACCOUNT AND A SIZEABLE BALANCE HAS ACCUMULATED. APPARENTLY FIRYUBIN REQUESTED THAT THIS REQUIREMENT BE EASED OR ELIMINATED. RAJARATNAM INDICATED THERE WAS NO GIVE ON THIS ISSUE ON THEIR SIDE. (COMMENT: ALTHOUGH TRADE STATISTICS INDICATE SOVIET IMPORTS FROM SINGAPORE GREATLY EXCEED THEIR EXPORTS TO SINGAPORE, MOST SINGAPORE EXPORTS ARE TRANSSHIPMENTS OF PRIMARY PRODUCTS FROM MALAYSIA. TRADE AGREEMENT PROVIDES THAT "PROCEEDS RESULTING FROM THE IMPORT INTO SINGAPORE OF SOVIET GOODS WILL BE UTILIZED FOR COUNTER-IMPORT INTO USSR OF GOODS MANUFACTURED IN SINGAPORE.")
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Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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To: STATE
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Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005